

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Washington Field

FILE NO. 31-1801

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Washington, D.C.	2/10/50	1/30/50	LAWRENCE E. BUSCHER 1881NS
TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE		
IN RE BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN, PHYLIS JEANETTE BERNSTEIN - VICTIM NEW YORK CITY			WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC ACT

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject and wife alleged to have been engaged in prostitution at the Harris Hotel, each denying participation. Subject admits arrest for pandering and victim admits prostitution in Norfolk, Virginia.

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FOIA(b)(6)

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Instant case is predicated upon information received from Lt. BOY ALICK of the Vice Squad, Metropolitan Police Department, who advised that subject and victim, who are man and wife, had been alleged to be engaged in prostitution at the Harris Hotel and that the victim had just come from Petersburg, Virginia. He further advised that they had both been previously interviewed by the Norfolk Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding prostitution.

PHYLIS JEANETTE BERNSTEIN advised that her maiden name was ALICK and that she was born in [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. She advised that on January 22, 1950, she arrived in Washington, D.C. and obtained a room at the Commodore Hotel. She then called her husband, BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN, and advised him of her arrival and has been with BERNSTEIN since

APPROVED AND FORWARDED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	RECORDED
Guy Hollis	1881-71220-1		SP-1-5
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that date at the Commodore, Bellevue and Harris Hotels. She advised that she and BENSTEIN had been separated for some time and that during this time she had been residing in Richmond, Virginia at the Sharle Apartments with a WILLIE SCHWARTZ. She stated that SCHWARTZ is a friend and that he paid her rent and also furnished her with necessities. She stated she was unaware as to SCHWARTZ'S actual occupation but believed that he was a bootlegger. She stated that she had first married BENSTEIN in February, 1945 and they were divorced sometime during 1946. Shortly after this she engaged in prostitution in Norfolk, Virginia and while so engaged she was questioned by an agent of the Norfolk Office of the FBI by the name of SMITH.

She stated that after being interviewed by SMITH, she was afraid to engage further in prostitution and since that interview, has not resumed that occupation. She advised that her husband BENSTEIN was aware of the fact that she had engaged in prostitution before her marriage and that they had been remarried in July, 1946. She denied that she had ever engaged in prostitution with BENSTEIN and that she had ever furnished him any funds whatsoever. She knew that BENSTEIN at one time had been arrested for pandering however stated that this was the result of a complaint made by his former wife and that he was not convicted for it however he was convicted of being a vagrant and served one year.

She denied that she had engaged in prostitution since coming to Washington or that she had used her apartment in Richmond for the purpose of prostitution. She stated that she had left SCHWARTZ for the reason that he had beaten her on several occasions and that she had desired to return to her husband. She stated that he did not furnish her transportation from Petersburg where she left SCHWARTZ as she had hooked some rings she had and as a result was able to get to Washington. She did however state that before leaving SCHWARTZ in Petersburg, she had called BENSTEIN to ask him whether or not he would take her back.

BENJAMIN BERNSTEIN, 317 Calatin St., N.W., advised that he was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 24, 1906. BERNSTEIN denied that he or his wife were engaged in prostitution and stated that he has never been a pimp for any prostitute. He admitted that he had been arrested in Norfolk, Virginia for pandering however claimed that this was the result of a complaint made by his wife when they had both been arrested for disorderly conduct caused by them engaging in a fight. He claimed that after his arrest he was released, and had advised the police that he had forced her into prostitution and that he had been charged at that time with pandering. These charges were dismissed however and the charge of

disorderly conduct placed instead for which he received a year. BERNSTEIN denied knowledge of the fact that his wife had engaged in prostitution and also denied that she had engaged in prostitution since coming to Washington. He stated that he was aware that his wife had been living with BILL SCHWARTZ in Richmond, Virginia and stated that Schwartz had some sort of power over his wife whereby she would leave him and live with Schwartz.

BERNSTEIN stated that he had no knowledge of his wife coming to Washington until he received a phone call one day previous to her arrival in which she asked if he would take her back and he advised that he would. BERNSTEIN stated that he is presently employed as a clerk in the grocery store of MORRIS GREENSTEIN, 1117 F St., D. C. and that during the summer months he is employed as an ice cream salesman.

BERNSTEIN stated that he was able to stay at the hotels for the period of one week as he had saved a little money during the month while he was employed as a grocery clerk however stated that his present savings amounted to about \$50. He vigorously denied that he had ever acted as a pander for anyone or that he had knowledge of the fact that his wife had been a prostitute. He claims that to the best of his knowledge he has never received any money from her and that he was her sole support while they were living together as man and wife.

A description of BERNSTEIN is as follows:

Name:	BERNARD BERNSTEIN
Address:	317 Gallatin St., N.W.
Age:	33 years
Date of birth:	September 24, 1906
Place of birth:	Baltimore, Maryland
Height:	5' 6"
Weight:	115 lbs.
Eyes:	Brown
Hair:	Black
Complexion:	Dark
Occupation:	Clerk and salesman
Relatives:	Mother, REBECCA MILLER, 2006 Maplewood Ave., Richmond, Virginia Father, ISAAC BERNSTEIN, 2006 Maplewood Ave. Brother, HARRY BERNSTEIN, Richmond, Virginia Brother, OSCAR BERNSTEIN, Petersburg, Virginia

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Sister, ESTHER GORDON, 2008 Rosewood Ave.,
Richmond, Virginia
Sister, ROSE KATE, 2012 Maplewood Ave.,
Richmond, Virginia
Friend, A. W. T. FINGL, 3001 21st St., N.E.
Friend, IRVING BOTKIN, 2232 R St., N.E.
Friend, OTTO MILLER, 317 Gallatin St., N.W.

A description of the victim is as follows:

Name: PHILLIS JEANETTE BERNSTEIN nee ALVIS
Age: 23 years
Date of birth: [redacted]
Place of birth: FOIA(b)(6)
Height: 5' 4"
Weight: 130 lbs.
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue
Relatives: Mother, CORA THOMPSON, 1303 Avondale,
Richmond, Virginia
Father, GEORGE EDWARD ALVIS, deceased
Daughter, PHILLIS ANN STEWART, 6 years old
2025 Gammaton Road, Richmond, Virginia
Half brother, HARRY F. SHEDD, 310 W. Harrison St.,
Richmond, Virginia
Sister, Mrs. MARY C. WEST, 1303 Avondale,
Richmond, Virginia.

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